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Locates Land in Central America

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A Green Revolution Among Farm Workers

Farming is Big Business these days and particularly in the Yakima and Wenatchee Valleys of Washington State. And that means that there are thousands of people who while breathing fresh country air are nonetheless as overtly exploited as any element in the American economy. Sociologists and "Poverty Program" officials call them seasonal workers or migrant laborers; they call themselves field stiffers or straw cats. They pour into Washington (and the Imperial Valley of California and the fields of southwest Michigan) as early as March of each year to begin the long summer (until November's last apples for those who can take it) of planting, pruning, staking, burning and picking, only to be driven out of town when they are no longer "needed." The AFL-CIO spent a million dollars a few years ago "researching" the possibility of organizing agricultural workers and decided they were unorganizable. What the workers could have done with that million!

Thus deserted by "organized labor" in their efforts to take control of their own lives, the concerned workers in Yakima "discovered" the Industrial Workers of the World. One field worker, George C. Underwood, wrote to the dusty old headquarters of the IWW and learned that the Industrial Workers of the World stood for complete internal democracy, for the self-organization of all wage-workers into one powerful yet uncentralized organization, that it stood for the day-to-day struggle of workers against the bureaucratic, dehumanizing economy and for the revolutionary struggle to place production back under the control of those who know best how things should be produced—the producers themselves. Underwood "signed up" with the IWW and six months later applied for organizers credentials.

During the past year Fellow-worker Underwood has been laying the groundwork for a huge organization drive in central Washington this growing season. He has distributed thousands of leaflets, and he and other IWW's are planning to open a hall and office in Yakima this March. They are fighting tremendous odds in their drive to organize the field hands—the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the bosses, the lack of money and the apathy of many workers will be going against them.

But they must succeed because to a large part the nutritional health of the nation depends on this and like drives. The farm owners care little about the nutritional value of the food produced on their farms and orchards—they are only concerned with profits; but the people who work the fields 12 to 15 hours each day know what such things as sprays can do—each year they see one or more families killed or maimed as a duster plane misses a field and sprays a migrant labor camp. And they experience life in the disease-ridden camps and know what this does to the crops they pick and handle. Obviously they, not government agents or other "outsiders," are the people to change these conditions; and just as obviously, they cannot change them individually. Organization to change work, change products and change life is the best answer to this "problem."

Health is at stake, so is human dignity. This battle will cost a lot, and the entire IWW treasury is but a few thousandths of what the AFL-CIO spent researching agricultural workers. Your money is needed for the Yakima Hall Fund and for the more general Agricultural Workers Organization Fund—send what you can to the Industrial Workers of the World, 2422 North Halstead, Chicago, Ill. 60614, labelling it as to use. And if you are unfettered with a job or a homestead, head for Yakima to participate in the Drive—contact George C. Underwood, 102 South 3rd St., Yakima, tel. GL 3-2046. Do what you can to start a Green Revolution on a large scale.

—Bruce Elwell

Beware, Take Care, In The Buying And Selling Of Property

By Clayton C. Bauer
82½ Mill St.
Spencerport, N. Y.

You can't deal in property without also dealing with people. The successful property manager weighs the human element with as much care as he observes the legal safeguards.

Caveat emptor—let the buyer beware—still rules the marketplace as it did in Nero's time.

I will call him Theo. He is a farmer and animal trader, quick to trade in almost anything if it promises a profit. Though I've called him friend for 50 years, I must say his ethics are shocking.

He bought a three-acre place with house and barn adjoining his farm. It came cheap; the

price somewhere between \$4,000 and \$5,000. With his hired man he set about putting the house in shape to sell. I happened to drop in on him at the time.

Basically, nothing was right with the house. A pinched cellar lay under the sitting room and stairs to the poor bedroom up. The rest of the long after section, kitchen, former wood sheds, were devoid of cellar or proper foundation. As a result this whole section was off level and wracked. Theo had pulled boards and plywood from the walls, exposing the structure as possibly the result of a protracted nightmare.

Theo had a plumber installing a slapdash bath. Part of the heating system protruded

through a cabinet sink. Theo hastily improvised covering for the shabby walls. He and his man slapped paint on generously.

"I know what I'd do with this place," I said.

"Burn it, eh?" laughed Theo. "Right." I walked out to the road and looked back. You could hardly believe it. He'd replaced the leaky roof with a white fibre shingle. The exterior he'd painted with an almost fire-engine red and added some pretty crude white trim. Dolomite stone dropped along the driveway appeared to present a firm path to the barn-garage. The place looked cozy and satisfying, even enchanting.

The couple who came later to look the place over were "anxious." They had a legacy coming. They knew housing was scarce in this area. It was spring and they wanted to putter in their own garden, watch the grass grow green, smell the fresh air off the meadow.

They must have drunk that day of the cheer that blinds. They saw the defects. Yet the man insisted. "I'll tear that off, put on some so-and-so (he was a house mechanic himself), change this, do that."

Theo asked \$13,000, let them knock him down to \$10,000, with a \$1,000 down. They agreed to assign a \$1,000 from the expected legacy. Theo rushed to the phone to get his lawyer on the job.

Delays ensued. Theo demanded more of the legacy by way of "holding" the place for the couple. They agreed to assign \$1,800.

The legal papers were prepared, signed. The couple moved in.

One day when the sun was hot and it looked like spring had really arrived, the new owner began to tear patchwork from the walls. "I'll remove this, put on some of that new . . . it's real smart," he told his wife. The more he pulled the sicker he got.

He went outside. He pulled off boards and probed under the house.

Theo came over, worried. "Ain't cha going at it a mite fast?"

"Oh, I'll fix it up. Don't worry. I'll have a real place here before I'm done."

But the bloom was off the house now. One night the pair bundled up all their belongings, and took off, leaving no forwarding address. Theo still has a set of assignments, quite legal, but no money. He had considerable fixing to do before he lured another sucker his way.

This is no made-up yarn. Look before you leap.

Do You Know Your Greens, cont'd

greens fanciers, can be used to make a marvelous salad. So, gather all the blossoms you wish but keep them separate.

To make your salad, wash the blossoms carefully and snip off most of the lower stems. Boil a half-dozen potatoes in their jackets (I do) and remove the skins as soon as they are cool enough to handle. Some cooks prefer to peel the potatoes and cook them with the greens, which is all right. Cube the potatoes and place in a large bowl. Chop the uncooked dandelion flowers coarsely and sprinkle liberally over the potatoes. Don't be skimpy. Add ½ cup minced onion (scallions are perfect) and 1 teaspoon celery seed.

Fry ¼ to ½ lb. of bacon until crisp. Lift out of pan and drain. Use the drippings for your dressing. There should be about ¼ cup. Add equal parts of vinegar and water to this fat, testing until you get the exact tartness you wish. A little salt may be added if desired.

When the dressing is done to taste, pour it over the salad, tossing lightly until all parts are well coated. Stick a big yellow dandelion blossom in the top and sprinkle in a circle around it the grated yolks of one or two hard-cooked eggs and salt if needed.

—C. Wade Swiger

Private School Succeeds In Kansas

A private school for elementary and high school students can grow successfully," reports Robert D. Love, founder-trustee of the Wichita Collegiate School, now in its sixth year of operation. The school, supported by the parents and not the community or public school system, started with 27 children of a dozen parents and four teachers. Now it has 300 students, a staff of 30, property worth almost a million dollars and offers pre-school through grade 10.

Mr. Love says that his son, rated the best reader in his fourth grade in public school, couldn't read the front page of a newspaper. This was not good enough, so parents got together to found a religiously based, non-taxed school, with teachers who can teach. Starting with grades 1-5, they have added a grade a year.

"No one is forced to our school or support us after they leave. We are sensitive to those who are in school rather than those on the outside. We are well up in the range of the best schools of this country."

Mr. Love believes that anyone can start a similar school who places education high enough on their value scale. Finances will be forthcoming, if the desire is present.

Locates Land In Central America

Paul Marks (Box N, Los Banos, Calif.) directs Youth Resources, Inc., which we described in our May 1965 issue. Wanting to emphasize homesteading and homestead-Community, Mr. Marks discovered suitable land in California was very costly. In November of 1965 he went to Central America to investigate possibilities of developing a land-based community there. Part of his enthusiastic report follows:

"I've just returned from a marvelous 60-day tour of the Central American countries. I went to investigate the social and educational conditions as well as to look at land where an intentional village and special school might be established. . . .

"After looking at a number of areas and specific parcels with the village-school idea in mind, I found a beautiful, developed farm in the highlands at 3300 ft. Climate is ideal. There are pine and oak forests all around. The place, developed for 16 years by an American, is located 75 miles from a market city. Many crops abound (oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, mangos, bananas, pineapples). Amazingly a large patch of black raspberries yields a fine year-round crop. The only problem with them is that numerous colorful birds like them too. But our feathered friends have scattered the seeds along a pretty stream which runs through the 600-acre property, so there are many raspberries growing wild. Limes and lemons also produce abundantly along the creek, which flows all year. Every vegetable is grown here commercially and they all thrive. The farm is for sale at a very reasonable figure which includes cost of machinery and a nice Guernsey herd of 60.

"Our plan is to locate 10 or 12 congenial families who have common interests. For a minimum amount of cash each family can purchase a portion of this farm. The balance can be for a school and perhaps a quiet retreat for Americans—where they can get away from it all for a week or more.

"I hope we can find families who do not drink or smoke, and who want to help develop a realistic educational program for their children. Do you think there are people left in America with a pioneering spirit, who would have the fortitude to leave the U. S. (a short distance) in order to build a good life in the land? Land that is not inflated, and is affordable."

[We will carry next month a description of general conditions in Central America by Mr. Marx.—Editor]

"IT IS MY PLEASURE"

wrote David Stry of Cuernavaca, Mexico, "to send you \$20 for the School of Living Headquarters Fund."

And it is our pleasure to receive it and acknowledge his initiative. A nice surprise—without any appeal or "Fund Drive" recently.

Activity at the Old Mill, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md., will be renewed during Spring and Summer. Annual Workshop there is scheduled for Aug. 6-14. To assist in restoring the old stone mill for efficient use, write Mrs. Dee Hamilton at the Mill.

Publications For The Homesteader

National Stock Dog magazine, quarterly, \$2 a year, \$5 for 3 years. E. G. Emanuel, Rt. 1, Butler, Ind. 46721

Peace of Mind Thru Nature, \$1. Backwoods Journal, Paradox 5, N. Y. \$2 a year, sample 35c.

Hygienic Review, \$4 a year. Herbert Shelton, Editor. Box 1277, San Antonio, Texas.

California Homeowners, quarterly, \$2 a year. 1561 N. Gower, Los Angeles 90028

Dairy Goat Journal, monthly. \$2 a year. Box 836, Columbia 35, Mo.

American Rationalist, \$4:50 a year, liberal religious viewpoint. Box 742, St. Louis, Mo.

Mankind Go Home, by Russel Jaque, simple life, handcrafted. \$2 from School of Living.

Go Ahead and Live! 200 page record of young couple's effort to set up a homestead and solve living problems, by M. J. Loomis and others. \$4 from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio.

Meetings

For meetings in New York City, write Selma Yaswen, 339 E. 94th St.

For meetings at Old Mill, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md., write Mrs. Dee Hamilton there.

July 2, 3, 4 there will be a Homestead Festival and Ohio State Meeting of School of Living, at Lane's End and Ralph-Rose Smart Homestead (RFD, West Alexandria, Ohio).

July 5-Aug. 5—Intensive study for 8 to 10 qualified persons of Major (End All War) Problems of Living, at Lane's End Homestead. Mildred Loomis, discussion leader. Also training in writing, group process and personal dynamics. Students will maintain themselves in our building. Fee, \$10 a week.

Apricots For A Cold Climate

"The Manchurian apricots are hardy in the coldest places. Like the Hansen apricot, they apparently have an almost frost-proof blossom and can set fruit even if the blossoms are caught in a late spring frost.

"They come from a country where temperatures get as low as 50 and 60 degrees below zero in winter with late spring frosts as a rule, and where hot dry weather prevails in summer, up to 115 degrees during long periods without rain. Yet even these adversities do not seem to bother these hardy apricots from thriving and bearing heavy annual crops of fine large fruit."

The above is from a brochure called New Plants, Brookings, S. D., by N. E. Hansen, a professor at South Dakota State College who helped develop this apricot and other hardy fruit for cold climates, including plums and bush cherries.

Prices are reasonable: 18"-24" for 75c, 3 for \$2; 2'-3' for \$1 or 3 for \$2.75; 3'-4' for \$1.50 or 3 for \$4.

The interest on the national debt is about 10 billion dollars a year. This is equivalent to all the income taxes paid by those with annual incomes up to \$6,000—41,000,000 taxpayers that is.